

THE JEFFERSON PHOTOGRAPHS.

Patrick Henry, the Song Thunder, and Bold John Hancock.

Mrs. Burton Harrison Continues Her Examination of the Monticello Collection.

Resuming the examination of the Monticello Collection, Mrs. Burton Harrison, in the letters of Patrick Henry, the first republican Governor of Virginia, to Col. Lewis, on the subject of the Revolution and the treatment of the patriot who was for his father's sake.

San Francisco, March 10, 1897.

I must once more address you on the subject of the Monticello Collection.

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of its magnificent clash upon the ear. In 1776 he served as Colonel of militia, and in 1776 was elected Governor of Virginia, a post which he held for a second time, from 1781 to 1784. He died at his residence, Red Hill, in Charles County, Virginia, in 1799, a great landmark of the Revolution that Americans must ever look upon with patriotic pride. He himself declared, "I am not a Virginian, but an American."

We present four letters of Patrick Henry's, one fully in facsimile, and two with the bold and graceful signature reproduced:

Wm. Burton Harrison, Esq.,
New York, Dec. 23d, 1778.

The British Troops, who came under the Convention of Saratoga may be directed to be guarded by Militia of this State. The Assembly in order to have done properly, & in order to save the militia have empowered the executive to raise a Battalion of Volunteers. This is put on foot by Orders sent to the Counties of Amherst, Buckingham, Louisa, Orange, Culpeper, & Stafford, to raise a Battalion of Militia to be sent to the aid of the British Troops. You are appointed a Col. to command it. Francis Taylor Lieutenant Col. & Wm. Fontaine Major & as soon as the Troops can be collected you are to take Command of them. But in

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from their imprisonment in log houses without doors or windows. Col. Theodore Bland, Jr., who commanded the guard, did all in his power for them, but their situation was from desperate. The British officer, Lieut. Anbury, whose account of the affair was published, dwells with unceasing upon the deprecations worked among the staff by an "abominable liquor" of Charlotteville called "peach brandy," in which, "to keep out the cold," they had indulged too freely upon arrival. "The inhabitants must actually have thought us mad," says Anbury, "for, in the course of three or four days, there were no less than five or six duels fought." Gen. Phillips, whom Jefferson called "the proudest man of the proudest nation upon earth," was quartered at Blenheim, a seat belonging to Col. Edward Carter, and the Baron and Baroness Riedel occupied Calle, the home of Jefferson's Italian friend, Philip Mazzei, the scientist, who fought for America in the Revolution, and was captured by the British. From Monticello Mr. Jefferson extended many courtesies to the captives, and he was very liberal to them, and won from them a sincere regard. The Baroness, who was the wife of the Brunswick General, had already gone through so many rough experiences since her arrival in America to share her husband's campaign, that these captivities seemed comparatively light. It was she, who, before they had reached Saratoga, was shut up for six days and nights with her children, and with other women, in a cellar near Fort Edward, and during the fire of the American army on all sides, had gone out alone to the river to fetch water to the wounded Britishers crowded in their retreat. This had been done repeatedly, the American fire being suspended while a woman was within range. A diary kept by the Baroness records that the "Convention Troops" in Albemarle county went bravely to work after the first annoyances of war, with a great little town of log houses, with trim gardens, and inclosed places for poultry in the rear. The British troops remained there until October, 1780, the Germans till 1781. When Virginia became the seat of war they were scattered, some to Winchester, in the Shenandoah valley, others to Maryland and Pennsylvania. The writer of these lines remembers many happy hours spent, long ago, in a stately old stone house in Clarke county, Virginia, near Millwood, built for Gen. Daniel Morgan by the Hessian prisoners, and named by him Saratoga, in memory of the triumph of the American army, where they had been surrendered. This house was afterward the home of the accomplished historian, John Eaton Cooke.

Some of the captured Germans remained where they were, preferring to become American citizens. After Gen. Phillips was exchanged, he held command of the British invasion of Virginia in 1781. On April 25 he issued an order that the property of Col. Theodore Bland, Sr., in Prince George's county, should be in no way injured. This was his return for the kindness extended by Col. Bland, Jr., to the "Convention Troops" at Charlottesville. Notwithstanding this, Col. Bland's residence was plundered, his furniture and crockery broken, his crops and stock destroyed, and his negroes carried off. Phillips was lying ill of fever at the "Bollingbrook" house in Petersburg while the town was cannonaded by young Major Gen. Lafayette, mist. 28, and the British prisoners, may have positive orders to return immediately, may not be prevailed on to stay "ill" the Corps to be formed for this duty collected. I wish you to represent to the Gen. who commands the Corps, the necessity of his staying "ill" a regular Guard is instituted, by showing the danger of committing the business to raw militia ill armed and ill clad. Ignorance of Discipline & of every thing requisite to prevent the mischiefs which may be done by the prisoners, many of whom are as well as their officers may be ill disposed & wretched to take every advantage which ignorance or inattention may give them. I would now write to you who commands the Guard from the North but I know not who he is; and I trust your urging these things to him will answer the purpose.

In case it is necessary to have a Guard of Militia called in, you are to send to the County Lieutenants of Amherst, Buckingham, Louisa, Orange, Culpeper & Goodland to furnish you 100 men each. You are to command them assisted by the Lieutenant Colonel & Major of your militia whom you are to call out to command no longer than the Militia from the aforementioned counties remain on duty with you.

The Militia of your County are to be called on to do duty but must have orders to hold themselves ready by having their arms in good order & ammunition laid in to act in case of necessity.

Arms & Ammunition for the Volunteer Battalion when formed will be sent from hence as also any other thing that may be requisite & which at present I cannot recollect.

I consider the Careful Discharge of the Trust for guarding these prisoners which is reposed in you as a matter of high concern to the safety & repose of this State. The worst consequences will attend their getting away or mutinying. A due attention to their Arms, & to the Dismissal of them towards them is highly proper & what I am convinced you will not omit.

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In Companies or half Companies as they were made up, without waiting for the Regiments to be Completed. I must entreat Congress to furnish me with a copy of the preceding applications & commands that this expedient may be adopted without a moment's delay."

Wm. Burton Harrison, Esq.,
New York, Dec. 23d, 1778.

I recd. yours by Express & am fully satisfied that the Business you've undertaken will be well done so far as circumstances will permit.

I am sorry to hear of the Barreness being had & the provisions wasted.

I shall immediately send, as soon as it can be done, five hundred guns to arm the Guard. I wish you to send a Direction to Col. Southall to deliver these guns to you.

Flute will be ordered from hence.

With great regard I am
Yr. most obedt. Servt.
J. Henry

I have no Doubt you'll take the Greatest Care to have the Arms returned. They will be entrusted unless great Vigilance is used.

Two weeks later Col. Lewis gets both powder and lead from Richmond:
Richmond Feb. 6 1779.

I have sent you by Mr. Shafter 4 Casks powder Containing Two hundred & fifty four & one for the Guard and one for the Lead Containing 650 lbs. or for Cartridge paper we have no such article in the Magazine, having sometime ago sent the Whole I had to Wm. Burton.

I am Sir
Yr. Obedt. Servt.

Turner Southall

Col. CHARLES LEWIS.

The collection contains this interesting memorandum relating to Patrick Henry, and signed by Nicholas Lewis in 1795:

Early in the spring of the Year 1776 Col. Lewis marched from Albemarle with an intention, to go to Williamsburg with a party of Minute Men. After proceeding about 60 miles Col. Patrick Henry met Col. Lewis and informed him he had been at Williamsburg with a Co. of Men & it was unnecessary for him to go further.

Col. Lewis then proceeded on his way, and on the 20th of April he was ordered to go to the frontiers of the Commonwealth to command a Battalion of Militia.

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A SEA TRAGEDY OF 1840.

THE EXECUTION OF MIDSHIPMAN SPENCER FOR MUTINY.

He was a Son of President Tyler's Secretary of War and was Hanged at the Yardarm of the United States Ship Somers with Two Other Members of the Crew. Without Trial and Lendly Pretexting His Innocence.

New York nowadays is seldom at a loss for a sensational occurrence, or an event that sets tongues wagging. But half a century ago its much gossiped about events were of a different order. Then the city did not have a yellow fever journalism, as now, that invented sensations in default of actual ones. Wherefore, when, during the closing month of the year 1840, THE SUN announced that the brig Somers, belonging to the navy, had anchored in New York harbor, returning from a cruise in the midshipman—was the son of John C. Spencer, then Secretary of War—and a boat-awake's mate and an ordinary seaman, who had started with the brig, and that the reason for their absence was that they had been hanged at the yardarm without trial by order of the court-martial, the public mind was greatly excited. The excitement was greatly excited. The excitement was greatly excited. The excitement was greatly excited.

It was made known that Secretary of War Spencer, the father of the midshipman, was prosecuted by the late President, and that President Tyler and other members of the Cabinet were deeply shocked. Inquiries made by SUN reporters were simply answered by statements that a mutiny had been fomented by the three who had been executed, and that only by such prompt punishment had Commander Mackenzie, Lieut. Ganevoort, Purser Heskell, Quartermaster Rogers, Surgeon Leach, and Midshipman Sidel, Mackenzie, and Titcomb been saved from contemplated murder, primarily instigated by Midshipman Philip Spencer. The sensation deepened when finally it became known that he had planned, through the mutiny and the murders, to convert the brig into a pirate vessel and sail the seas for prey.

The officers of the Somers, however, declined to talk freely about the affair, because restrained by official and professional etiquette, but some of the crew were communicative, so that little by little the details of the tragedy became known, and as more particulars became known, popular excitement increased all over New York and adjacent cities. Those details almost immediately became matters of record through a court of inquiry held on board the United States frigate North Carolina, lying in our port. Not only was the tragedy thus conspicuous in public regard because of the relationship of the condemned midshipman to the Cabinet officer, but also because Commander Mackenzie had already been notable in literary circles as author of several books of travel, and also politically notable as being the brother of Congressman John Sidel of New Orleans—

he who, twenty years later, while a Confederate, was captured on the British steamer Trent by Commodore Wilkes, and was the occasion of a serious diplomatic controversy between England and the Washington Administration.

The press of the United States, as the mails arrived, came to discuss the tragedy, some predicting that the execution of the alleged ringleaders of the alleged mutiny, would lead to a hearing and on the part of Commander Mackenzie, aided by the advice of his officers, was a cowardly murder; while others predicted his action as the consequence of necessary discipline. The court-martial was hastened by the demand not only of Commander Mackenzie, but also of Secretary Spencer, who became anxious to have the slayer of his son punished.

The commander was the youngest son of John Sidel, Sr., who had long been an esteemed and prominent in his society and in his politics, for he had been a Tammany Sachem. The commander, also well known in New York society, had five years before this Somers tragedy taken the name of Mackenzie at the request of his mother's brother, who made its adoption the condition of a large loan to the commander, his favorite relative.

The Somers had set out on a cruise around the West Indies in order to train for the navy a number of